

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00152 131531Z

53

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 L-02 ABF-01 SY-04 USSS-00

FBIE-00 SCCT-01 NSC-05 SS-15 CPR-01 PA-01 PRS-01

JUSE-00 /054 W

----- 010898

O 131144Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1698

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 678

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0152

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ADDING ZAGREB AS INFO ADDRESSEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS YO UN

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION AGAINST YUGOSLAV MISSION IN NEW YORK

REF: A) STATE 7085 B) USUN 5414 C) USUN 4885 D) USUN 4711

1. REQUEST USUN NOT RPT NOT TAKE ACTION OUTLINED PARA 2 REF A
PENDING DEPT CONSIDERATION OF EMBASSY VIEW WHICH FOLLOWS.

2. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPT RECONSIDER ITS
DECISION ON THE MATTER OF PAYMENT FOR DAMAGE TO THE YUGOSLAV UN
MISSION. SEVERAL POINTS ARE PERTINENT:

A) THE REACTION OF THE YUGOSLAVS TO OUR REFUSAL TO PAY FOR THE WINDOW
WILL BE STRONG FOR AT LEAST TWO REASONS. FIRST, THEY TAKE SERIOUSLY
THEMSELVES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A HOST COUNTRY TO PROVIDE PROTECTION
OR, IN ITS ABSENCE, TO EFFECT RESTITUTION, AND WILL BE HONESTLY
SHOCKED AND PUZZLED AT WHAT THEY WILL SEE AS OUR FAILURE TO TAKE
THE SAME ATTITUDE. SECOND, IRRATIONAL AS IT MAY SEEM TO US, THE
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 00152 131531Z

YUGOSLAVS CANNOT SEPARATE ACTIONS OF EMIGRE GROUPS IN US FROM

OUR POLICY INTENTIONS -- THIS IS AN EMOTIONAL, NOT A RATIONAL REACTION,
BUT IT IS A FACT TO BE LIVED WITH. THUS, WHILE IT WAS BAD ENOUGH THAT
A DEMONSTRATION WAS ABLE TO APPROACH CLOSELY ENOUGH TO INFLICT
DAMAGE HOWEVER MINOR, ON THEIR MISSION, IN THEIR EYES FAILURE OF
THE USG TO PAY FOR THE RESULTING DAMAGE WOULD AT BEST CONFIRM THEIR
IMPRESSION OF US INDIFFERENCE, AND AT WORST REINFORCE THEIR
SUSPICIONS THAT POLITICAL EMIGRES ACT WITH THE TACIT APPROVAL OF SOME
ELEMENTS WITHIN THE USG.

B) THE ARGUMENT THAT PRECAUTIONS WERE "REASONABLE AND NECESSARY" WILL
BE REJECTED OUT OF HAND. THEY WILL MERELY POINT OUT THAT HAD THEY
BEEN, THE WINDOW WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BROKEN.

C) AS THE DEPT POINTS OUT IN PARA 3 OF REF A, THE YUGOSLAVS
EITHER REIMBURSE OR THEMSELVES TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESORE
EFFECTS OF VANDALISM AT OUR FACILITIES HERE. AS A PURELY PRACTICAL
MATTER, WE WILL BE THE FINANCIAL LOSERS IF WE FAIL TO PAY FOR THE USU
N
WINDOW, SINCE THE FREQUENCY OF INCIDENTS OF INDIVIDUAL VANDALISMS AT
OUR LIGHTLY-PROTECTED INFORMATION CENTERS WILL FAR EXCEED DAMAGE
FROM DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE U.S. IF WE INFORM THE YUGOSLAVS WE ARE
MAKING THEIR NOTE ON THIS INCIDENT "A MATTER OF RECORD", WE CAN BE
CERTAIN THAT WZ WILL RECEIVE A LIKE RESPONSE THE NEXT TIME SOME
MAOIST OR NEW-LEFT STUDENT IN LJUBLJANA DECIDES TO DO A FEW HUNDRED
DOLLARS WORTH OF PAINT DAMAGE TO OUR IC THERE.

3. FINALLY, RECENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN US AND YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS,
PARTICULARLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SECRETARY'S NOV 4 VISIT HERE,
HAVE BEEN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF SEEKING AVENUES TO BROADEN OUR AREAS
OF AGREEMENT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO DIMINISH THE KINDS OF NEGATIVE THINGS
WHICH PROVIDE UNNECESSARY IRRITATION. THE YUGOSLAVS WILL ONLY
BE ABLE TO SEE A REFUSAL TO PAY FOR A BROKEN WINDOW IN THE LATTER
CATEGORY. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, THIS IS A PROBLEM WE CAN DO WITHOUT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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